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## THE ISLE OF ZORDA ✓

By ~~Jules Verne~~

Many years ago, a certain country on the Adriatic Coast was crushed beneath the oppression of a tyrant king. Plotters against the King were Bathory, Zathmar and Mathias Sandorf. Sarcany, an adventurer, secured evidence against them and he and Silas Toronthal, a banker, conspired to betray them to the government so as to secure, as the informers, half of their estates.

Bathory, Zathmar and Sandorf were arrested and imprisoned. By a curious phenomena of acoustics, while in prison they <sup>learned</sup> ~~learned~~ that they were betrayed for their wealth by Sarcany and Toronthal. They planned an escape, fraught with many dangers. Only Sandorf succeeds in finally evading the pursuers, and he is given up because he was washed into the sea.

But he was not dead. While working hard at his trade he learned that his baby daughter, Sava, had disappeared and was thought dead. In reality she was kidnapped by Toronthal, to be brought up as his daughter, bearing his name, that she may be despoiled of her inheritance.

Sandorf wandered through the Orient, preaching and practicing healing. He cured an Oriental potentate of a strange malady and became his heir of great riches. Part of his inheritance was the Isle of Zorda, which he made his domain.

The years passed. The extravagances and dissipations of Toronthal and Sarcany have cut heavily into the wealth their treachery brought them. Sava will soon be of age, and Sarcany is to marry her to prevent her fortune slipping away from them. But Sava loved her neighbor, Pierre Bathory.

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At that time, Mathias Sandorf returned to his native land to punish his betrayers. His servants spied upon Sarcany. Sandorf called on Mme. Bathory and learned of Pierre's love for Toronthal's supposed daughter. He said their marriage could not be.

When Sava repeatedly refused to marry Sarcany, he took her by force to the mansion he had built on the northern shore of Africa. She was watched over by Sarcany's slave, Namir, who took her to the slave market and showed her the horrors that would befall her if she does not marry Sarcany.

But, on the day set for the wedding, Sandorf landed on the coast. One of his servants stole into Sarcany's mansion and got Sava safely out, for Sandorf had learned that she was his own daughter. Then

Then Sarcany was captured and taken to the Isle of Zorda. Toronthal was found at Monte Carlo, just as he was about to commit suicide because of his heavy losses. Carpena, a fisherman who had also betrayed Sandorf, was imprisoned on Zorda. Then Mathias Sandorf appeared before them, disclosing to them, for the first time, his identity. He told them why he had brought them there, but vengeance was not for him. For punishment, he would send them back to the land where their crimes were committed.

And so, with the dead avenged, on the peaceful Isle of Zorda, lived Mathias Sandorf, with his friends-- Mme. Bathory, Pierre and Sava.

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